

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6029

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: RADICAL PARTY EASES (SLIGHTLY) CRITICISM OF NATO

1. DUTCH RADICAL PARTY (PPR), A MEMBER OF FIVE PARTY
CENTER-LEFT GOVERNMENT COALITION, SOFTENED ITS OPPOSITION
TO CONTINUED NATO MEMBERSHIP DURING CONGRESS IN NIJMEGEN
MAY 31. RADICALS, WHO A YEAR EARLIER HAD ABSOLUTELY
REJECTED NATO ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT CONTRIBUTED TO
TENSIONS, SPURRED THE ARMSRACE, AND INCLUDED THE USE OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN ITS MILITARY STRATEGY, DECIDED NOT TO
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INSIST THAT ITS PARTNERS IN A FUTURE GOVERNMENT AGREE TO

WORK FOR A WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ALLIANCE. ALTHOUGH STILL CONVINCED THAT MILITARY ALLIANCES HAVE NO REASON FOR EXISTING, PPR ADOPTED RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD HAVE PARTY WORK FOR A CHANGE IN MENTALITY WHICH WOULD HAVE AS A CONSEQUENCE WITHDRAAWAL FROM NATO.

2. MOST DISCUSSION AT CONGRESS WAS DEVOTED TO TOPICS UNRELATED TO SECURITY. BY VOTE OF 578 TO 192, RADICALS REJECTED MOTION TO DROP OUT OF COALITION. MINISTERS AND PARLIAMENTARY PARTY WERE URGED TO PRESS FOR ACTION ON SOCIAL REFORMS AS CONDITION FOR CONTINUED COLLABORATION WITH GOVERNMENT.

3. COMMENT: WHILE RADICAL POSITION ON NATO DOES NOT REPRESENT ANY GREAT CHANGE IN POLICY, IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT MOST LEFT-WING PARTNER IN GOVERNMENT COALITION HAS MODERATED ITS POSITION AT ALL. IN PAST PPR NEVER FAILED TO TAKE CLEAR AND PRINCIPLED ANTI-NATO STAND TO DISCOMFITURE OF OTHER PROGRESSIVE PARTIES, MOST PARTICULARLY LABOR PARTY. PARTY CONGRESS MAY HAVE TAKEN RESULTS OF RECENT PUBLIC OPINION POLL ON NATO MEMBERSHIP (SEPTTEL) INTO CONSIDERATION IN SOFTENING PREVIOUS POSITION. POLL SHOWED CLEAR MAJORITY OF DUTCH VOTERS IN FAVOR OF STAYING IN NATO WITH PLURALITY OF PPR VOTERS FEELING SAME WAY.
TANGUY

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